UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06

Site Name Johnny M Mine **CERCLIS ID#** NMN000607139

Alias Site Name

Address

City/County or Parish/State/Zip Grants Uranium Mining District, McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type Preliminary Assessment **Date** March 2012 **Author** Westin Solutions

RECOMMENDATION

☒ 1 No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)

☒ 2 Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund
☐ PA ☐ HRS Priority ☒ High
☐ SI ☐ RI/FS ☐ Low
☐ ESI ☐ RA
☐ Other
To be performed by Removal Action

☐ 3 Action Deferred to ☐ RCRA ☐ NRC

☐ 4 Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) ☐ Yes ☒ No

NOTIFY AUTHORITY

X Removal	☐ RCRA	☐ TSCA	☐ CAA	☐ SMCRA
☐ Remedial	X State/Tribe	☐ NPDES	☐ NRC	☐ Resource Trustee
☐ CERCLA Enforcement	☐ Federal Facility	☐ UIC	☐ SPCC	☐ Other

SEND SSSR COPIES TO ☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

DISCUSSION

The Johnny M Mine (JMM) is abandoned uranium mine located within the Grants Uranium Mining Belt, in McKinley County, New Mexico The mine originally was composed of approximately 260 acres of land on New Mexico Highway 605 N, approximately 2 miles west of San Mateo, New Mexico The JMM was an underground uranium mine operated by Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation (Ranchers) from 1972 until 1982 In 1984, Ranchers merged with Hecla Mining Company No uranium ore milling was performed on the mine property The uranium ore was transported approximately nine miles, via a haul road across the site, to the Kerr McGee Ambrosia Lake uranium mill for processing Historically two separate land owners had ownership of the acreage that encompasses the boundaries of the original mine The main mine portion is part of the Lee Ranch and forms the northeastern quarter of the Site (approximately 67 acres) Currently this portion is not being utilized by the Lee Ranch for any purpose other than storage in one of the historic mining structures The remaining 193 acres (approximately) are owned by Thomas Jackson Sr and Thomas Jackson Jr This portion is utilized as a primary residence and a small livestock breeding and training business (Jackson Ranch Small Business)

EPA concluded that the two properties are distinct operable units of the larger facility that shared, at least in part, a common operational history, the Johnny M Area Site Potable groundwater (well) samples collected by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in November 2010 indicate that the drinking water maximum contaminate level (MCL) for gross alpha radiation and 226/228 Ra had been exceeded in the drinking water well on the Jackson Property EPA conducted a Removal Assessment of the Jackson property resulting in an EPA emergency removal action to dissociate the residents and livestock associated with the small business on-site On April 8, 2011 EPA temporary relocated both the residents and the business from the site In November 2011, EPA tasked START contractors to conduct a PA of this facility As part of this PA, START was tasked to prepare a HRS Quickscore, conduct a file review, and evaluate the site for potential NPL inclusion

In February 2012, HECLA purchased the Jackson Small Ranch property On August 16, 2012 HECLA signed an AOC with EPA to address on-site contamination under Superfund Removal Authority The AOC includes provisions for the completion of an site investigation and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis EE/CA

As part of this PA ground water, surface water, soil exposure and air pathways were evaluated Analytical results from previous subsurface investigations of groundwater wells contained gross alpha and radium above EPA MCLs A total of 58 wells were identified within a 4 mile radius of the site
Previous sampling of the surface water pathway revealed analytical results that contained manganese, uranium, and radium-226 above background concentration There is no overland flow segment from the source to the in-water segments, as the pipe directly deposits the contents of the ponds into the unnamed arroyo A potential fishery has been identified within the surface water pathway of San Mateo Creek

Releases to both ground water and surface water were documented resulting in a preliminary site score greater than 28 5 In February 2012, HECLA purchased the Jackson Property, no residents currently live onsite The onsite contamination is currently being addressed under an enforceable order between EPA and HECLA Based on this information, it is recommended that the site receive a designation of "No Further Remedial Action Planned" (NFRAP) in CERCLIS and be deferred to Removal for any further action under their authority This designation does not preclude future federal involvement with the site should site conditions change Superfund Removal and the State will be provided a copy of this decision document

APPROVALS

Report Reviewed by	Brenda Nixon Cook (Site Assessment Manager)	**Signature**		**Date**	09/21/12
Disposition Approved by	John Meyer (Section Chief 6SF TR)	**Signature**		**Date**	9/21/12